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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 2

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 18 August 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office in Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the forty-ninth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

I have the honour to submit herewith a document entitled "Statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" and to ask you to kindly have it circulated as an official document of the forth-ninth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under agenda item 2.

(Signed): Han Chang On
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a party to major human rights instruments, has been actively participating in the discussion of human rights issues and contributing to the protection and promotion of human rights at the international level.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea ratified the human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without any reservation and has been respecting these instruments.

The initial reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were considered and in September 1997 the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is scheduled to be considered. Periodic reports on the implementation of the said instruments are now under preparation.

Surprisingly however, a draft "resolution" designed to impair the sovereignty and dignity of our country has been tabled.

We categorically oppose and reject this draft.

Ours is a socialist country that fully respects human rights politically and legally, and thoroughly ensure them in practice. Our people will, therefore, not be subdued by any words or pressure of others. Nor will they give up their system, which they have chosen by themselves, adhered to and further developed.

The absurd play of presenting a draft "resolution" at the moment is purely motivated to serve the political aim of the hostile forces to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As long as the human rights instruments are abused for the political aim of the hostile forces to disturb and overthrow our society, we cannot sit idle with folded arms.

The game of adopting such "resolution" is tantamount to forcing us to withdraw as soon as possible from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other instruments to which we are a party. If the "resolution" is adopted by force, we do not feel it necessary to remain bound by these instruments any longer. Our withdrawal from these instruments might be another pretext for the forces hostile to us to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but for our part, it will be rather convenient not to be bound by these instruments.

We do not want to see the way to dialogue and cooperation being blocked once and for all; those who have sponsored the "resolution" will be held responsible for its consequences.

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